Listing of Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and Listings of Claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

~~(a)~~ displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

determining whether the currently displayed page of the electronic document is associated with an existing annotation file that is stored separately from the electronic document;

if the currently displayed page is associated with an existing annotation file, retrieving the separately stored annotation file and displaying annotations corresponding to previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device;

if the currently displayed page is not associated with an existing annotation file, creating a new annotation file stored separately from the electronic document;

~~(b)~~ detecting a selection of an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently displayed document page;

~~(c)~~ receiving annotation stroke input from a user input device indicating that the user has moved the user input device for a continuous distance about a stroke location on the currently displayed document page; and

~~(d)~~ storing annotation stroke data based on the received annotation stroke input, said annotation stroke data comprising data corresponding to the stroke location and the movement of the user input device, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in the separately stored ~~an~~ annotation file ~~associated with the user, the annotation file stored separate from the electronic document~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to a translucent highlighting that does not completely obscure the annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the translucent highlighting on the computer display device, said displaying comprising blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a translucent color to produce a translucent annotation.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to an erase highlighting that erases previously annotated areas of the currently displayed document page.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said user input device comprises a stylus in a tablet computer system.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

~~(e)~~ updating the computer display device to display a different page of the currently displayed document;

~~(f)~~ retrieving previously stored annotation stroke data associated with the different page; and

~~(g)~~ displaying annotations corresponding to the previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device superimposed over the different page.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, further comprising ~~wherein step (f) comprises~~ detecting a title change event in the document browser and, in response thereto, locating a second annotation file corresponding to the different document page.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for annotating electronic documents independently of the content of the documents comprising:

a computer display device;

a computer programmed with a document browser that permits a user to display an electronic document on the computer display device and to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

a computer input device that permits the user to indicate portions of a currently displayed document page; and

computer software that:

determines whether the currently displayed document page is associated with an existing annotation file that is stored separately from the electronic document, wherein if the currently displayed document page is associated with an existing annotation file, the computer software retrieves the separately stored annotation file and displays annotations corresponding to previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device, and wherein if the currently displayed page is not associated with an existing annotation file, the computer software creates a new annotation file stored separately from the electronic document; and

permits the user to annotate parts of the currently displayed document page according to indicated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the computer software displays the annotated parts of the currently displayed document page on the computer display device and stores annotations made by the user ~~separate from the currently displayed document page, wherein said annotations are stored as data~~ in the separately stored ~~an~~ annotation file ~~associated with the user that annotated the document page~~.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores translucent highlight annotations that do not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores erased annotations that remove previously made annotations on the currently displayed document page.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer display device comprises a flat panel display, and wherein the computer input device comprises a stylus.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software retrieves, upon detecting a title change event, previously stored annotations associated with a different document page and displays the previously stored annotations on the different document page.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

~~(a)~~ displaying an electronic document page on a computer display device and permitting a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

determining whether the currently displayed page of the electronic document is associated with an existing annotation file that is stored separately from the electronic document;

if the currently displayed page is associated with an existing annotation file, retrieving the separately stored annotation file and displaying annotations corresponding to previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device;

if the currently displayed page is not associated with an existing annotation file, creating a new annotation file stored separately from the electronic document;

~~(b)~~ detecting a selection of an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently displayed document page;

~~(c)~~ receiving annotation stroke input from a user input device to indicating that the user has moved the user input device for a continuous distance about a stroke location on the currently displayed document page; and

~~(d)~~ storing annotation stroke data based on the received annotation stroke input, said annotation stroke data comprising data corresponding to the stroke location and the movement of the user input device, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in the separately stored ~~an~~

annotation file ~~associated with the user, the annotation file stored separate from the electronic document~~.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to a translucent annotation that does not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the translucent annotation is generated by blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a highlighting pixel color.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the stored annotation stroke data corresponds to an erase highlighting for erasing portions of previously created annotations.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable instructions further include steps for:

~~(e)~~ in response to detecting that the user has moved to a different page of the currently displayed document, retrieving previously stored annotation stroke data associated with the different page; and

~~(f)~~ displaying annotations corresponding to the previously stored annotation stroke data on the computer display device superimposed over different page.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in a data structure.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the annotation stroke data comprises a stroke width and coordinates indicating a trajectory of the stroke.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored as a bitmap image.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising an annotation mode selection menu.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored as a bitmap image.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored in a data structure.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the annotation stroke data is stored as a bitmap image.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said annotation file contains a user identifier associated with the user.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein access permissions on the annotation file are set to allow the user access to the annotations while denying access to certain other users.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 4, wherein blending the pixels comprises execution of an alpha blending function.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the annotation stroke data corresponds to movement of a stylus across the display between a stylus down event and a stylus up event.